

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A cutting head for a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, of the type comprising a passageway (112) for a cutting string (300) and a mobile string locking element (400) suitable for locking the string (300) in its passageway, characterized in that the passageway is generally offset from a central axis of the head and opens at both ends at the periphery of the head, and in that the locking mobile element is a one way-locking element, whereby a strand of string can be readily inserted into the passageway from a first end opening thereof and extracted from the passageway from the second end opening thereof.
2. (Original) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the mobile locking element is located between the passageway and the periphery of the head.
3. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the locking element comprises a shoe forced to move in translation in an oblique direction relative to the direction of the string passageway and suitable for being acted upon to move closer to the string passageway.
4. (Original) A cutting head according to claim 3, characterized in that it comprises a cavity (114) sheltering the locking element and delimited on one side by the string passageway (112) and on an opposite side by a surface (116) oriented at an oblique angle relative to the direction of the string passageway, and in that the locking element comprises both a working face (404) capable of locking the cutting string and a bearing face (402) oriented at an oblique angle relative to the working face and suitable for sliding against the said obliquely angled surface (116) of the cavity.
5. (Original) A cutting head according to Claim 4, characterized in that the working face (404) of the locking element is oriented substantially in one plane.
6. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the locking element (400) is acted upon by a pushing member (500).

7. (Original) A cutting head according to Claim 6, characterized in that the pushing member (500) comprises a compression spring.

8. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to ~~Claims 5 to 7 taken in combination~~ Claim 7, characterized in that the pressure spring (500) acts between one surface (117) of the cavity situated in the region where the obliquely angled surface is furthest from the string passageway and a region opposite (408) the locking element.

9. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the locking element (400) comprises, in the region of one extremity on the side of engagement with the cutting string, a string guidance cut-away section (406).

10. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the locking element comprises on a working face arrangements (404) of gripping with the string.

11. (Original) A cutting head according to Claim 10, characterized in that the gripping arrangements comprise teeth (404).

12. A cutting head according to ~~one of Claims 10 and 11 taken in combination with one of Claims 4 and 5~~ Claim 10, characterized in that the gripping arrangements (404) are provided substantially along the whole extent of the working face of the locking element.

13. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 12~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the locking element (400) comprises in a working face a longitudinal slot (403) suitable for at least partially receiving the cutting string.

14. A cutting head according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 13~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the cutting string (300) presents a rugged section, and in that the locking element (400) is suitable for acting on a ridge of the string.

15. A cutting head according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 14~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the locking element (400) is suitable for moving in translation in a direction generally transverse to a radial direction of the head.

16. A vegetation cutting device such as a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, characterized in that it comprises a cutting head (100) according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 15~~ Claim 1 and a motor suitable for driving said head in rotation.